

Brief notes on some coleoptera from the Liverpool Bay area

The purpose of this brief note is to provide information on a number of characteristic beetles of coastal habitats in this area, based on the author's observations, and with reference to background studies kindly provided for me by Mr T. Eccles and the regional office of the Nature Conservancy. The general area is recognised for the quality of its fauna which was dealt with by Chaster, G.W. & Burgess Sopp, E.J. (1903) in their *Coleoptera of the Southport District*, and by Sharp, W.E. (1908) in his *Coleoptera of Lancashire & Cheshire*.

All of the following species are either rare or localised, or are, in the general area, reduced to fragments of their original populations.

Dyschirius thoracicus (Rossi). Fine silty sand below high water mark, Hoylake, Cheshire (SJ28), August 1988.

Laemostenus terricola (Herbst). Relict population by rabbit warrens, dune fragment in Mersey mouth, Seaforth, Lancs (SJ39), August 1987.

Olisthopus rotundatus (Paykull). On wet bare ground amongst rubble and ferrous metal waste, Seaforth, Lancs (SJ39), August 1987.

Amara praetermissa (Sahlberg). Freshfield, Lancs (SD20) long-established population extant on isolated mobile dunes in driest areas. Most northerly western British station.

Amara lucida (Duftschmid). Freshfield, Lancs (SD20), May 1985.

Harpalus neglectus Serville. Dunes, Point or Air, Flintshire (SJ18), August 1987.

Dromius notatus Stephens. Tall herb fen, Hoylake, Cheshire (SJ28), August 1987.

Hypocaccus rugiceps (Duftschmid). Freshfield dunes (SD20) extant. Known from other north-west coast dune systems.

Quedius fulgidus (Fabricius). Taken very locally in Creeping Willow thickets, Hightown, Lancs (SD20), August 1987.

Quedius nigriceps Kraatz. Pine woods on leached dunes, Freshfield, Lancs (SD20), August 1987.

Quedius pallipes Lucas. A largely southern species (widespread in western Mediterranean) but frequent around north-western estuaries. My northernmost record is for Hesketh Marshes on the Ribble (SD42). At Hightown (SD20) occurs inland on sparsely vegetated sand flats.

Gabrius keysianus Sharp. Dee mouth, Hoylake, Cheshire (SD28), August 1987.

Staphylinus brunnipes (Fabricius). Fixed dunes, Freshfield, Lancs (SD20) June 1964 presumed extant. Point of Air, Flintshire (SJ18), August 1987.

Diglossa mersa (Haliday). Below high water mark, Point of Air, Flintshire (SJ18), August 1987.

Aphodius distinctus (Müller) Hightown dunes, Lancs (SD20), May 1985. Declining.

Psammodytes caelatus (Leconte). Added to the British list by Colin Johnson

(*Entomologist's mon. Mag.* 111: 177-183) in 1976, and now firmly established at the site, Freshfield, Lancs (SD20).

Rhizobius litura (Fabricius). Hoylake, Cheshire (SJ28), August 1988. Elytra brown, otherwise black; possibly unique form.

Nephus redtenbacheri (Muslant). Tall herb fen, Hoylake, Cheshire (SJ28).

Cteniopos sulphureus (Linnaeus). South-west Anglesey (SH36), August 1988. Characteristic of British southern maritime heaths, it occurs on Anglesey together with other such faunal elements (e.g. the heteropterans *Corizus hysciami* (L.) and *Phytocoris varipes* (Boh.)) but appears not to have crossed Liverpool Bay.

Notoxus monoceros (Linnaeus). Hightown dunes, Lancs (SD20), May 1985.

Arhopalus tristis (Fabricius). Freshfield, Lancs (SD20), extant in *Pinus sylvestris* L. Dispersed locally in shore drift.

Sitona lineellus (Bonsdorf). Ainsdale, Lancs (SD20), fixed dunes, June 1967.— P.F. WHITEHEAD, Moor Leys, Little Comberton, Pershore, Worcs WR10 3EP.

[Further work during August 1990 revealed:

Anisodactylus binotatus (F.) sandy pasture (littoral) Leasowe, Wirral, Cheshire (SJ29); spoil heaps, River Weaver, Weston Point, Cheshire (SJ48).

Dromius notatus Ste. Extant, Hoylake. Under foliage *Cakile maritima* Scop., on beach.

Staphylinus brunnipes (F.). Viable populations, Freshfield and Birkdale, Lancs (SD31). Fixed dunes and dune-slacks.

Notoxus monoceros (L.). Swarming (50+ imagines), foredunes, Hoylake, Cheshire, 8.viii.1990.

Sitona lineellus (Bons.). Extant, Freshfield, Lancs (SD20). At Birkdale, Lancs, (SD31) 5.viii.1990. Fixed dunes, sheltering, with many other phytophagous beetles, under logs from substrate temperature over 40°C.

A record of *Agonum thoreyi* Dejean from reedswamp, Hoylake, 8.viii.1990, is of a species somewhat more localised in Western Britain. P.F.W.]

Extraordinary abundance of *Omphaloscelis lunosa* Haw., the Lunar Underwing (Lep.: Noctuidae) in 1990.

Although this is always a common moth in my trap here, the nights of late September 1990 gave unusually large numbers, culminating in 950 *lunosa* out of 1000 moths trapped on 29th September.— R. FAIRCLOUGH, Blencathra, Deanoak Lane, Leigh, Surrey.

R.F. Bretherton C.B., M.A., F.R.E.S.

We are saddened to hear, as we go to press, of the death of Russell Bretherton on 10th January 1991. A distinguished entomologist, Russell was an authority on the Noctuidae and will be well known to readers of the *Record* for his joint papers with Michael Chalmers-Hunt published each year on the immigration of Lepidoptera into the U.K. P.A.S.